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## Army Declass Instructions on File

CARNEGIE INSTITUTION OF WASHINGTON  
1530 P Street, Northwest  
Washington 5, D. C.

Office of the President  
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November 8, 1945.

Major General Clayton Bissell  
Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2  
War Department General Staff  
War Department  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear General Bissell:

I have been interested in reading your letter of October 12 (MID 920) with its accompanying proposal by Dr. Leet for establishment of a geophysical research institute of the Pacific. I fully concur in your belief that such a network of observing stations as is suggested in this proposal would give results highly valuable for U. S. military and naval planning. There is no doubt that geophysical research, touching so many lines of human endeavor as it does, should be supported much more liberally than it has been in the past, but I am not sure that Dr. Leet fully appreciates the magnitude of the task and has adequate cognizance of all the agencies which are at work in this field and of steps taken during the war.

My impression is that complete geophysical services, instrumentation, recording, and maintenance for all the fields proposed in Dr. Leet's memorandum would cost much more annually than he estimates. This proposal in unlike that for a Geophysical Institute at the University of Alaska (HP3874) which is based upon the great and growing needs, both territorial and national, for development in coordination with existing Federal bureaus, of potential resources of Alaska and application to modern communication by radio and air in Arctic regions.

Isolated observing stations in the Pacific involve great difficulties of maintenance which may possibly be met more economically by existing military or other federal services. Thus, for example, the Signal Corps of the Army has established during the period of the war a number of outlying stations for ionospheric work and has adopted the policy, approved in principle by the Chief Signal Officer, to continue such stations indefinitely in expectation that additional arrangements may be made for several mobile stations. The National Bureau of Standards plans to continue the five ionospheric stations in the United States and, if the proposed Geophysical Institute at the University of Alaska is not realized, to take over the Alaskan station in cooperation with the University of Alaska. The United States Weather Bureau is responsible by law for meteorological observations within the United States and its

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territories, which probably would extend to any bases established in the Pacific area; this Bureau also has arrangements for observations at sea on board steamers and tramp vessels. The United States Coast and Geodetic Survey is responsible for magnetic surveys in the United States and its territories and would doubtless be expected to carry on geomagnetic and seismic work at any bases established in the Pacific. In the field of volcanology there is the station for volcanic study operated by the Geological Survey and the University of Hawaii. The Hydrographic Office of the United States Navy secures many oceanographic data during the cruises of its vessels.

International cooperation is, of course, a vital factor in future progress and good will, and for such purpose we have the International Council of Scientific Unions, the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics, and the International Meteorological Organisation, all with many years of proved usefulness. There are many qualified Americans engaged in geophysical studies, and the integration of their results, techniques, and publications through national and international organizations has made for excellent progress, as evidenced by valuable geophysical applications during the war. There are also many commercial and private organizations in the field. Moreover, national geophysical bodies, such as the American Geophysical Union, have done much to arrange for broad geophysical programs at relatively small expenditures of funds other than those provided by respective governments.

My main purpose in this recital of agencies now interested in various phases of geophysical study is to call attention to the desirability of giving adequate consideration, in connection with any such proposal as Mr. Lest's, to opportunities now available for effective cooperation in obtaining the desired results. I would not want to give full support to establishment of a new agency, particularly with such large expenditure of Government funds, unless very careful study revealed that we could not obtain the necessary information, and more economically, by other means.

If I may add another word, it would be to emphasize the opportunity which also exists for strengthening courses of instruction in our educational institutions for theoretical and practical training of geophysicists to meet growing needs.

Very truly yours,

/s/ V. Bush

V. BUSH.